

AMERICANS SPEAK UP

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Americans are speaking up about rising gas prices.

The polls show that well over 60 to 70 percent of Americans support exploration of American oil and natural gas reserves, and we are seeing a vocal outpouring of disappointment in Washington's refusal to take action.

For example, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has put a petition on his Web site asking Americans to send a message to Washington that we need to "Drill Here, Drill Now, and Pay Less." As of today, the petition has over 1.1 million signatures. Surely this is only a snapshot of the millions more in America who are feeling the pinch from rising energy prices. That is the bad news.

The good news is that House Republicans have a plan to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, invest in a future of renewable, cleaner energy resources, and ask the American people to participate through conservation. We have a plan, and the American people have the will to put that plan into action if House Democrats stop standing in the way.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

OFFSHORE ENERGY EXPLORATION IS LONG OVERDUE

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, the American people recognize that expanding our offshore energy exploration is long overdue. Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues have failed to reach this obvious conclusion, so let me offer them some help.

This is our country. This is our country's Outer Continental Shelf. There is oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf that belongs to us, the American people. As offshore oil production increases, our domestic oil supply increases. As oil supplies increase, prices will decline. Let me repeat that for my Democratic colleagues.

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Hopefully, for the sake of the Americans that are suffering at the gas pump, our Democratic colleagues can learn what everybody else in the world has known all along: If you have energy resources, use them.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF JONESVILLE ON ITS NEW TOWN HALL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the people of Jonesville, North Carolina on the completion of their new town hall. Jonesville's new town hall will serve both as a government center and the hub for the town's tourism outreach efforts.

While I was unable to attend the grand opening event this past Friday due to Congress being in session, congratulations are in order for everyone in Jonesville who helped make this important project a success. I want to praise Mayor Lindbergh Swain for his leadership and also the people at USDA Rural Development for their help in securing critical financing for the new town hall.

This town hall, which replaces the town's more than half century old town hall, promises not only to give the town a new government seat but also to bolster the local tourist economy. Tourism is a growing segment of the local economy in Yadkin and surrounding counties, and this new facility is a wise investment in drawing new tourist dollars to Jonesville. I applaud Jonesville for its forward thinking mindset, and hope to visit the new town hall in the coming weeks.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, soon we will be breaking for the July 4 district work period. July 4, Independence Day. But what are we doing about making us, the American people, independent of foreign oil and foreign energy? If you look at the record in this House, absolutely nothing.

The first response we had from the majority was denial. They say this supply will do nothing. Well, of course it will do nothing unless you explore it and produce it.

Then they say energy will be produced by lawsuit. We have got a bill coming out of the Judiciary Committee. Sue, sue, sue, and somehow that is going to give you more energy.

The American people are smart. They understand that if we have a precious resource granted to us, we ought to use it.

Independence Day, July 4. Why can't we bring at least one bill to the floor that would begin to give us energy independence?

FIXING THE ENERGY PROBLEM

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, for 30 years, we have seen the development of new major gas and oil developments in our country thwarted. For 30 years, we have had no new nuclear reactors built in this country to provide us electricity. For 30 years, we have seen no new refineries being built in this country. For 30 years, we haven't even seen a hydroelectric dam being built in this country. And people ask why are we paying \$4 and \$5 a gallon for gasoline now?

Well, what has happened, of course, is we have put ourselves in a position where the discretionary income of our people is being robbed from them because we were acting irresponsibly for these last 30 years. Congressmen, elected representatives of the people, did not stand up to a radical element which opposed all of these energy alternatives for America and has left us vulnerable to our enemies overseas.

It is about time we speak up, we stand up, and we do what is right so we can fix this problem that was caused by inaction for the last 30 years.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4044) to amend the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 to exempt from the means test in bankruptcy cases, for a limited period, qualifying reserve-component members who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 60 days, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4044

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

Section 707(b)(2)(D) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clauses (i) and (ii)—

(A) by indenting the left margin of such clauses 2 ems to the right, and

(B) by redesignating such clauses as subclauses (1) and (11), respectively,

(2) by striking "if the debtor is a disabled veteran" and inserting the following: